



# CALCASIEU PARISH

October 2006

## COMPLETION REPORT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE	
35	Drinking Water Plant Assessments
71	Industry Damage Assessments
156,032	Hazardous Waste Containers Collected*
3,164	Electronic Items Collected*
13,488	Pounds of Ammunition/ Explosives Collected*
2,233,384	Pounds of Cumulative Waste Disposed*
68	School Lab Assessments

Since September 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) have worked together to address environmental hazards from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to help Calcasieu Parish recover.

One of EPA and LDEQ's first priorities was to ensure residents returning to all the cities affected by the hurricanes had safe drinking water. Throughout Louisiana, assessments were conducted at drinking water facilities, of which 35 were in Calcasieu Parish. Similarly, wastewater treatment plants were assessed for damage.

Next, EPA and LDEQ turned to federally-permitted facilities. The agencies conducted interviews and site visits at hazardous waste storage, transfer or disposal facilities. Facilities in southern Louisiana were addressed, including 71 facilities in Calcasieu Parish. The site visits and interviews established that employees could return to work at facilities operating in accordance with federal and state regulations.

Because of concerns that damaged chemicals in school biology and chemistry laboratories could cause a health hazard, EPA and LDEQ conducted assessments at schools in southern Louisiana. Some chemical containers were found to be damaged by the hurricanes, by flood waters and/or from heat exposure. EPA and LDEQ, in coordination with the Louisiana State Police and local fire departments, removed dangerous chemicals from schools in southern Louisiana. Sixty-eight schools in Calcasieu Parish were assessed; chemicals were removed from 13 of them.

Paint, computers, washing machines, and refrigerators in homes under normal circumstances are not usually considered hazardous. However, when hundreds of thousands of these items become waste products at the same time, the hazardous components in them could create problems. To help remove these materials from the waste going to Louisiana's municipal landfills, EPA and LDEQ collected 156,032 units consisting of hazardous waste containers and home electronics. The hazardous materials were recycled or disposed in landfills designed to handle them safely. In southwestern Louisiana parishes, EPA and LDEQ have disposed of 2,233,384



pounds of waste as of September 30, 2006.

In response to community concerns about potential harm from firearms, ammunition and explosives, EPA began collecting these materials for appropriate disposal in January 2006. In southwestern and south-central Louisiana parishes, 224 firearms and 13,488 pounds of ammunition, explosives, fireworks and other similar items were collected.



Left:  
EPA  
collecting  
hazardous  
material  
containers.

\*Reflects more than Calcasieu Parish activities.